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PRC No. DD/I-249-56

ER 8-3375

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SUBJECT: Research and Development Project,
Mechanical Translation

1. PURPOSE

To support the development of a capability for mechanical translation of scientific Russian-language data into English for potential Agency use.

2. BACKGROUND

a. The volume of scientific data available in the Russian language far exceeds the capability of linguists for substantive translation. If a machine capability for translation were developed, English versions of technical papers could be available to intelligence analysts and scientists for evaluation immediately after publication.

b. It is recognized that the major research problem in developing this capability is not electronic but linguistic.

c. An overt program by private research is currently in progress as follows:

- (1) PHASE I (concluded) has proven the feasibility of mechanical translation.
- (2) PHASE II (to which this project is directed) will be to accomplish the linguistic research.
- (3) PHASE III will be to develop the machine adaptation for mechanical translation.

d. The total annual cost for Phase II of this program is estimated at \$100,000. It is proposed that CIA contribute \$65,000 FY 1956 funds for this purpose, the balance of approximately \$35,000 to be provided by the [redacted]

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e. Funds are available within the current allocations to the DD/I.

3. PROPOSAL

It is proposed that subject project be approved in the amount of \$65,000 FY 1956 for use as described above.

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By: [Signature]	

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4. ACTION

At the request of the Deputy Director (Intelligence), this action is effected by lateral vote, without a formal meeting of the Project Review Committee.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Director of Central Intelligence approve subject project as proposed above.

CONCUR

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Deputy Director (Intelligence)

Inspector General

6 JUN 1956

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Asst. Deputy Director (Plans)

6 JUN 1956

Chairman, PRC

6 JUN 1956

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Asst. Deputy Director (Support)

6 JUN 1956

Deputy Director, Central Intelligence

APPROVED

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Acting Director of Central Intelligence
9 June '56

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